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PATENT
2809-0126P

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Naoya ICHIKAWA et al. Conf.: 9038
Appl. No.: 10/615,839 Group: 1713
Filed: July 10, 2003 Examiner: Egwim
For: DEPROTEINIZING AGENT, DEPROTEINIZED NATURAL RUBBER
LATEX USING THE SAME, AND METHOD OF PRODUCING
RUBBER PRODUCT

LARGE ENTITY TRANSMITTAL FORM

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

June 14, 2004

Sir:

Transmitted herewith is a Supplemental Reply to
Restriction/Election Requirement in the above-identified
application.

- ☒ No fee is required.
- ☐ A check in the amount of \$0.00 is enclosed.
- ☐ Please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2448 in the amount of
\$0.00. A triplicate copy of this sheet is attached.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in
this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or
credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any
additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17;
particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By

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ADM:gmh
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For: DEPROTEINIZING AGENT, DEPROTEINIZED
NATURAL RUBBER LATEX USING THE SAME, AND
METHOD OF PRODUCING RUBBER PRODUCT

SUPPLEMENTAL RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner of Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Va. 22313

June 14, 2004

Sir:

Supplemental to the Response to Restriction Requirement filed June 7, 2004, the following additional remarks and traversal with respect to the Restriction Requirement are respectfully provided.

Restriction Requirement

The claims of the present application have been subjected to a Restriction Requirement as follows:

Group I - Claims 1 and 9 directed to a deproteinized natural rubber latex product;

Group II - Claims 2, 3, 10, and 11 directed to a method for producing the deproteinized natural rubber latex product of Group I; and

Group III - Claims 4-8 and 12-16 directed to a method for producing a rubber product formed of the deproteinized natural rubber latex produced by the method of Group II.

As noted in the previous Response, applicants elected the claims of Group III, i.e. claims 4-8 and 12-16.

Traversal of Restriction Requirement

The above-noted election of Group III is made with traverse. It is submitted that at least the claims of Group II should be examined together with the elected claims of Group III, since it appears that the search and substantive examination issues overlap significantly between Groups II and III. It is further submitted that the search and substantive examination issues of Groups I and III also significantly overlap such that the subject matter of Group I should also be included within the examination of the present application. Even though different classes have been identified in the Restriction Requirement, it appears that the search for the claims of Group III will include all of the listed classes, including the classes of Groups I and II. In view of

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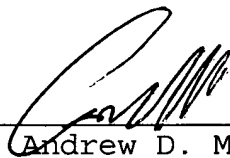
this, it is submitted that there is no significant burden placed on the Examiner to examine at least additionally the subject matter of Group II, and further the subject matter of Group III, such that the Restriction Requirement should be withdrawn.

If any questions arise regarding the above matters, please contact Applicant's representative, Jim Hellwege (Reg. No. 28,808), in the Washington Metropolitan Area at the phone number listed below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

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